

ABERTILLERY
Urban District Council.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S
ANNUAL REPORT



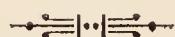
For the Year 1894.

ABERTILLERY :

PRINTED BY W. R. HAYLINGS, "SOUTH WALES GAZETTE" OFFICE.

1895.

LIST OF MEMBERS
OF THE
Urban District Council
OF ABERTILLERY.



ABERTILLERY WARD.

MR. J. E. WEBB. MR. GEO. C. DANCEY.
 MR. G. GREGORY.

CWMTILLERY WARD.

MR. J. WALLACE (CHAIRMAN). MR. D. LEWIS.
 MR. J. T. WILLIAMS (VICE-CHAIRMAN).

PENYBONT WARD.

MR. J. T. BAKER. MR. F. PADFIELD.
 MR. W. STEWART.

LLANHILLETH WARD.

MR. W. THOMAS. MR. W. DAVIES.
 MR. W. EVANS.

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MEDICAL OFFICER'S EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

TO THE

DISTRICT COUNCIL OF ABERTILLERY,

Ward.	Area in acres.	Population.	No. of Houses.	Rateable Value.
				£ s.
Abertillery	1,751	3,250	591	5,968 10
Penybont	737	3,355	610	11,622 0
Cwmtillyery	1,850	3,388	616	14,745 0
Llanhilleth	2,008	2,982	497	7,690 0
	6,346	12,975	2,314	40,025 10

I.—VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

SIRS,

THE Mortality Returns for the Year ending December 31st, 1894, contain the final instalment of facts which enables me to review the health of your District during the past year, and it is satisfactory to note that the death-rate during 1894 has diminished to a considerable extent as compared with 1893. This satisfactory condition of healthiness has not been peculiar to your District, for it appears from the Registrar General's statement that the country at large has enjoyed a similar reduction in the number of deaths that have been recorded.

256 persons have died throughout the entire District, or a mortality of nearly 20 per 1,000 of the estimated population, against 22 per 1,000 for the year 1893.

605 births were registered during the same period, or a birth-rate of **46** per 1,000.

The health of a district depends upon numerous causes, of which climatic conditions exercise a preponderating influence. It is not so much the degree of heat or cold registered that plays havoc with delicate constitutions as the sudden and large fluctuations of temperature to which we are liable—cold wet fogs, the east wind, and persistent atmospheric moisture—invariably occasion a more or less decided rise in the sick and death rate.

Last year's weather began with a frost of great severity during the first nine days of January. Then followed a long spell of mildness to the end of April. Excepting during the opening days of the year 1894, there was a remarkable absence of rapid variations of temperature, of east winds, and of cold wet fogs. To these favourable meteorological conditions the lowered death-rate for the year is mainly due.

The absence of Epidemics from our midst is another circumstance which must not be lost sight of as favouring the death-rate.

Since the appearance of Influenza some five years ago (December, 1889) this disease has rarely been absent either in a sporadic or epidemic form. During the last quarter of the year, and more recently, fresh cases of the disease have been occurring more frequently, showing some indications that we may yet be overtaken by another wave of this troublesome and highly infectious disease. Six persons have died from Influenza during the year, half of which number were carried off during the last two months.

130 children under five years of age have died during the year 1894, giving a mortality of **10** per 1,000.

Measles has been rife to a slight extent in a sporadic form during **January, March, June and July** months, causing the death of five children under five years of age.

Whooping Cough prevailed during January, March and November, and is responsible for the deaths of four children.

Diarrhoea caused the death of seven children.

Two adults were taken off by Typhoid or Enteric Fever. One of these deaths occurred in January and the other in October.

Erysipelas caused the death of one person.

Fifteen deaths were due to Consumption, which is a somewhat larger proportion than is usual for this locality, although the character of the soil and conditions of the atmosphere are not favourable to diseases of the Respiratory Passages.

2.—REPORT ON APPEARANCE OF INFECTIOUS SICKNESS, GIVING THE LOCALITIES, STREETS, &c.

JANUARY.—Five cases of Measles and one case of Scarlatina occurred during this month at Six Bells. Aber-tillery, a few cases of Measles broke out here. One case appeared at Pilgrim's Place, and three cases in Carmel-street. One sporadic case of Scarlatina happened at Penrhiw, and one case of Enteric Fever came under my notice in Mount Pleasant Row, Penybont.

FEBRUARY.—Six Bells, one case of Measles ; Tillery-street, two cases of Measles ; Carmel-street, one case of Measles ; Cross-street, one case of Measles ; Rhiw Parc and Park Place, two cases of Measles ; King's Head, one case of Measles.

MARCH.—Six Bells, one case of Measles ; Rhiw Parc, three cases of Measles ; Cross-street, three cases of Measles ; Cwm-street, one case of Measles ; Sycamore Terrace, one case of Measles ; Brynteg, two cases of Measles. Single cases of Measles happened in Park Place, Chapel Street, Castle Street, and Mitre Street.

APRIL.—Six Bells, one case of Measles ; Vernon Cottages, one case of Measles ; Tillery-street, six cases of

Measles ; Mitre-street, one case of Measles ; Chapel-street, one case of Measles ; Emanuel's Houses, one case of Measles ; Castle-street, one case of Measles ; Rhiw Parc, one case of Measles ; Barry Dock Tenements, one case of Measles ; Cwm-street, two cases of measles ; James-street, two cases of measles ; Cwmnenty, two cases of measles ; Vivian-street, one case of measles.

MAY.—During this month two cases of measles occurred at Six Bells, one case at Cwmnenty, one case in Tillery-street, one case in James-street, one case in Vivian-street, two cases happened at Blaenau Gwent, one case in Cwm-street, one case at Crookhill, Penybont, and two cases at Park-place.

JUNE.—Six Bells, four cases of measles ; Pantypwddin, two cases of measles ; Hill-street, two cases of measles ; Rhiw Parc, one case of measles ; Tillery-street, one case of measles ; Oak-street, one case of measles ; Cwm-street, one case of measles ; Mountpleasant, one case of measles.

JULY.—The few cases of measles, seven in all, which appeared during this month were confined to Castle-street, Blaenau Gwent, Gwent Terrace, Mount Pleasant, and Tillery New Buildings.

AUGUST.—This month was, as far as I know, free of infectious sickness, but during SEPTEMBER a case of Measles occurred at the Travellers' Rest, on Llanhilleth Mountain.

OCTOBER month was also free of infectious sickness, but two fresh cases of Measles broke out at Six Bells, and three cases of Enteric Fever appeared during NOVEMBER. These latter cases occurred in **Forge-row**, **Cross-street** and **Carmel-street**. One of these proved fatal.

You will observe from the foregoing list that Measles has been prevailing more or less throughout the year, without at any time assuming an epidemic form or malignant character. This is partly accountable for by

the fact that this disease had been rife in an epidemic form in most parts of the District during 1893, when it attacked most of the children of a susceptible age who had never caught the infection.

The personal habits of the people exercise a vast control over public and private health. Want of cleanliness of the person, house, utensils and surroundings lead to the production of disease, and is the cause of increasing the malignancy of fevers.

I often feel the uselessness of making visits to certain households where prejudice, idleness, filth and indifference are so combined as to make it quite clear that all instructions are ignored. **Windows** are carefully kept closed. Food and drink are administered **not** for the good of the patient, but merely for **his** gratification. Drugs are given without being measured or any semblance of regularity, whilst dirt and filth abound everywhere.

Acts of Parliament are of little service to persons of this character.

I believe it is their impression that the Doctor and his drugs must accomplish everything without any efforts of their own.

VITAL STATISTICS.

TABLE OF DEATHS in the Wards of ABERTILLERY, CWMTILLERY and PENYBONT, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Months.

FIVE YEARS AND UPWARDS.
UNDER FIVE YEARS.
1894.

1894.

LLANHILLETH WARD.

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VITAL STATISTICS, 1894.

ABERTILLERY, CWMTILLERY, AND PENYBONT WARDS.
Deaths classified according to the different age periods.

	1st Quarter.	2nd Quarter.	3rd Quarter.	4th Quarter.	Total.
Under 1 year...	... 16	... 10	... 11	... 25	... 62
1 year and under 5	... 15	... 7	... 4	... 4	... 30
5 years and under 15	... 1	... 2	... 0	... 1	... 4
15 years and under 25	... 6	... 3	... 5	... 2	... 16
25 years and under 60	... 21	... 15	... 12	... 16	... 64
60 years and under 80	... 5	... 3	... 5	... 3	... 16
80 years and upwards	... 1	... 2	... 1	... 1	... 5
	—	—	—	—	—
	65	42	38	52	197

Deaths under 5 years, 92.

LLANHILLETH WARD.

	1st Quarter.	2nd Quarter.	3rd Quarter.	4th Quarter.	Total.
Under 1 year ...	... 9	... 9	... 4	... 4	... 26
1 year and under 5	... 2	... 7	... 2	... 1	... 12
5 years and under 15	... 1	... 2	... 0	... 0	... 3
15 years and under 25	... 0	... 2	... 2	... 1	... 5
25 years and under 60	... 2	... 2	... 1	... 0	... 5
60 years and under 80	... 1	... 2	... 1	... 2	... 6
80 years and upwards	... 2	... 0	... 0	... 0	... 2
	—	—	—	—	—
	17	24	10	8	59

Deaths under 5 years, 38.

TABLE OF BIRTHS
 REGISTERED DURING THE YEAR 1894 IN ABERTILLERY,
 PENYBONT AND CWMTILLERY WARDS.

	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL.		
January.....	21	....	27	....	48
February	28	....	19	....	47
March	20	....	15	....	35
<i>Total for the quarter</i>	69	....	61	....	130
April.....	20	....	25	....	45
May	14	....	16	....	30
June	23	....	19	....	42
<i>Total for the quarter</i>	57	....	60	....	117
July.....	15	....	17	....	32
August.....	11	....	18	....	29
September.....	25	....	15	....	40
<i>Total for the quarter</i>	51	....	50	....	101
October	29	....	20	....	49
November	22	....	16	....	38
December	10	....	19	....	29
<i>Total for the quarter</i>	61	....	55	....	116
<hr/>				464	
Average annual Birth Rate, 45½ per 1,000 for entire District.					

BIRTHS IN LLANHILLETH WARD.

	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL.		
January	5	....	2	....	7
February	9	....	6	....	15
March	6	....	9	....	15
April.....	6	....	6	....	12
May	2	....	11	....	13
June	10	....	4	....	14
July.....	3	....	1	....	4
August	4	....	5	....	9
September.....	4	....	5	....	9
October	7	..	8	....	15
November,....	7	....	6	....	13
December	7	....	8	....	15
<hr/>				43	

Total for the Year **141**

Grand Total for the District, **605**.

Or a Birth Rate of **45½** per 1,000.

II.—SANITARY CONDITION

I.—SEWERS.

The following new sewers have been laid down in different parts during the year :—

157 yards of 18-inch Pipe Sewer
150 „ „ 12 „ „ „
674 „ „ 9 „ „ „

The ventilation of all sewers is quite satisfactory in every respect, as far as I can ascertain, and the flushing is effected by the diversion into them of mountain runners. This continuous flow of water through them prevents any accumulation or deposit collecting within. All the sewers are well laid, having in most instances a good fall, so that they get thoroughly washed out, and, as far as I know, never become choked by the debris and gravel which sometimes get washed into them by storm water. The ultimate outfall of all sewers is the River Ebbw, which receives the excrement of the entire valley.

It is the intention of the Authority to provide a sewer for Tillery-street, which improvement is much required. Another sewer is to be laid down at the back of Alma-street, and the Cwm-street sewer is to be extended as far as Adam's Cottages.

At Cwmtillery a new sewer is to be laid down on the East Bank.

A portion of Llanhilleth has been sewered, but a good deal of the proposed work is unfinished. It is, I am informed, intended to lay down pipes to receive the drainage of twenty cottages on the Maescynew Estate.

A **main sewer** is urgently required to be laid down from Cwm Court to Rose Cottage, so as to obviate the nuisances now escaping into the roadway, the cause of much complaint by the inhabitants of that locality.

Since the institution of a Sanitary Authority for the district very considerable progress has been made in sewerage the town of Abertillery, which may now be regarded as fairly well provided, in this respect presenting a striking contrast to its condition as existing fifteen

years ago. These improvements have not been confined to Abertillery, for the outlying populous parts are being duly attended to. Six Bells now rejoices in a system of sewers for carrying away the excrement of the place, but the connections with the house and closet drains have not yet been completely carried out. This, however, will doubtless be carried out in due course.

Increased closet accommodation is required here for the occupants of the tenements. The present congested state of the dwellings require one closet for each house, and I trust your Council will recognise the necessity for directing every new house to be provided with a closet before passing the plans that may be submitted for your approval.

The dry earth closets belonging to Sycamore Terrace have now been connected with a 9-inch sewer, and the perpetually recurring evils arising from filthy emanations poisoning the air have ceased to exist, I hope permanently, providing the occupants of the houses will obey the laws of decency and cleanliness. Closets having no currents of water passing through them often get choked and dirty by reason of not having a regular flushing from the inside by those who use them.

2.—PRIVATE DRAINAGE.

148 houses have been drained and connected with the street sewers during the year.

In the outlying parts of the District, where tenements are out of the reach of sewers, I find many houses are unprovided with drains of any kind. This is especially the case with houses of old construction, which were built long before the Legislature framed Acts for the regulation of public and private buildings.

The condition of existing drains is good, and calls for no comment from me. Whenever complaints do arise regarding their condition, your Inspector takes the necessary steps to correct any fault that may occasion a nuisance.

3.—EXCREMENT REMOVAL.

The different plans may be divided into

- The water method.
- The dry method.
- The cesspool system.

The Water Method is the one which is in most general use, for the conditions are favourable, *i.e.*, a supply of water—a good fall for the **Sewers** and an outfall into the River for carrying off the contents. As the population increases, it will be found necessary to provide a large main Sewer to carry away the excrement of the entire Valley instead of allowing it to drain into the River Ebbw.

The Dry Earth Method of dealing with the excrement in this District has proved an utter failure, owing chiefly to neglect of regular scavenging and the proper application of suitable de-odorants by the occupiers of the houses. I have learnt from experience that this system is unsuited for the people. In all instances where practicable these closets have been drained into the Sewer.

Closets having Cesspits are not in general use in the locality. Some of these are in use on the West Bank, Cwmtillery, and some other parts. These are all badly constructed, and do not receive proper attention. The excreta soaks into the soil and is liable to pollute any drinking water that may happen to be in the vicinity. None of these Cesspits should be allowed to exist anywhere near dwelling houses, unless properly constructed so as not to become a nuisance.

4.—REFUSE MOVING AND STREET SCAVENGING.

All offensive substances, ashes and rubbish from the houses and streets is carted away twice daily in Aber-tillery from the centre of the town, and in other parts once a day.

Brynteg, Blaenau Gwent, and Cwmtillery is scavenged three times a week.

Six Bells is scavenged three times a week.

Llanhilleth is scavenged twice a week.

Five Stations have been established for the reception of all rubbish. At the end of Cwm-street, Blaenau Gwent, Cwmtillery, Six Bells, and Llanhilleth, to which spots all refuse substances is taken in carts.

The removal of excrement is not done by your Board. This has to be undertaken by the owners of house property.

5.—WATER SUPPLY.

The observations contained in my last Annual Report on the above subject still apply to the parts I referred, namely, Mount Pleasant, Penybont, Kings' Head, Panty-pwddin, and certain other localities, where drinking water is mostly obtained from runners, shallow wells, and springs, which are exposed to pollution after a downfall of rain by soakage into them of impurities of an injurious character. The project you have in hand for supplying the district with water will (when carried out) be of incalculable benefit to the public, and I hope there will be no unnecessary delay in executing the work. Meanwhile it would be desirable, from time to time, to submit samples of water from the runners, wells, and springs for analysis by a chemist, and should any of the water be declared impure, measures should be taken to close whichever supply is polluted, and the owners of the houses in the vicinity should be compelled to provide an adequate supply of pure water for their tenants.

The inhabitants of the parish of Llanhilleth are in very urgent need of a more abundant supply of pure water. Houses are springing up in all directions, the population is rapidly increasing, so that this important question calls for your serious attention to put a stop to the inconvenience and danger arising from the present limited supply.

The late Board fully recognised the urgent want of water for this portion of the District, and had decided to spend a considerable sum of money (about £1,700) in collecting water from all the available springs in the locality. Before actually beginning the work it was very

properly decided to take samples of water from all the different sources for analysis. Eight samples of water were duly collected and forwarded to Mr. Morgan, of Swansea, for examination. The result of the different reports are given in full, together with his remarks upon the quality of each sample.

The total number of houses now supplied with water from the mains is about **900**.

NELSON TERRACE, SWANSEA,

Reference No. 34,688.

October 4th, 1894.

MESSRS. THE ABERTILLERY LOCAL BOARD, Abertillery, Mon.

Gentlemen,—Herewith I beg to hand you the results of my analysis of a sample of water, marked "A.L.B., No. 8," received from you on the 1st inst.:—

Total solid residue left on evaporation to dryness	31.5	grains per gallon.
Chlorine as Chlorides	0.8	"
Equivalent to Sodium Chloride	1.31	"
Nitrogen as Nitrates.....	0.057	"
Nitrogen as Nitrites.....	None.	
No Lead, Copper or any other poisonous metal present.		
Free Ammonia.....	0.04	parts per million.
Albuminoid Ammonia.....	0.03	"
Total or initial hardness (Clarke's scale)	21	degrees.
Permanent hardness after boiling	16	"

The sample was nearly colourless, and was free from any unpleasant taste or smell. The foregoing results show that that the quality of the water is good for drinking and dietetic purposes.—I am, yours faithfully,

W.M. MORGAN, M.D.

This sample of water was taken from a spring which supplies the bulk of the inhabitants at Six Bells.

Reference No. 34,687.

October 4th, 1894.

Gentlemen,—Herewith I beg to hand you the result of my analysis of a sample of water, marked "A.L.B., No. 7," received from you on the 1st inst.:—

Total solid residue on evaporation to dryness	6.3	grains per gallon.
Chlorine as Chlorides	0.8	"
Equivalent to Sodium Chloride.....	1.31	"
Nitrogen as Nitrates.....	0.034	"
Nitrogen as Nitrites.....	None.	
No Lead, Copper or any other poisonous metal present.		
Free Ammonia.....	0.04	per million.
Total or initial hardness (Clarke's scale).....	4.2	degrees.
Permanent hardness after boiling.....	3.5	"

This water has no action on lead, therefore it may be conducted through lead pipes. The sample was nearly colourless, and was free from any unpleasant taste or smell. The foregoing results are very satisfactory, and they show that the water is good for drinking or dietetic purposes.—I am, yours faithfully,

W.M. MORGAN, M.D.

This sample was taken from a spring situated nearly opposite to the Balance Pit, Six Bells.

Reference No. 34,399.

August 30th, 1894.

Gentlemen,—Herewith I beg to hand you the results of my analysis of a sample of water, marked "A.L.B., No. 1," received from you on the 18th inst. :—

Total solid residue on evaporating to dryness	9.10 grains per gallon.
Chlorine as Chlorides.....	0.60 "
Equivalent to Sodium Chloride.....	0.99 "
Nitrogen as Nitrates.....	0.023 "
Nitrogen as Nitrites.....	None.
No Lead, Copper or any other poisonous metal present.	
Free Ammonia.....	0.02 parts per million.
Albumenoid Ammonia.....	0.06 "
Total or initial hardness (Clark's scale)	8½ degrees.
Permanent hardness after boiling.....	3¼ "

The sample was clear and free from any unpleasant taste or smell. This water has no action on lead, therefore it may be safely conducted through lead pipes. In my opinion the quality of this water is good, and it is well adapted for drinking or domestic purposes.—Yours faithfully,

W.M. MORGAN.

The sample to which this report applies was taken from a spring on the Maescynew Property.

Reference No. 34,400.

August 30th, 1894,

Gentlemen,—Herewith I beg to hand you the results of my analysis of a sample of water, marked "A.L.B., No. 2," received from you on the 18th inst. :—

Total solid residue on evaporating to dryness	14.70 grains per gallon.
Chlorine as Chlorides.....	0.60 "
Equivalent to Sodium Chloride.....	0.99 "
Nitrogen as Nitrates	0.046 "
Nitrogen as Nitrites.....	None.
No Lead, Copper or any other poisonous metal present.	
Free Ammonia.....	0.02 parts per million.
Albumenoid Ammonia	0.16 "
Total or initial hardness (Clark's scale).....	10½ degrees.
Permanent hardness after boiling.....	2¼ "

The sample was clear, but it had a slight yellowish colour. It was, however, free from any unpleasant taste or smell. This water has a

slight action on lead, but there is none retained in solution : therefore it may be conducted through lead pipes. The only objectionable item in the above analysis is the amount of Albumenoid Ammonia present, and it exceeds the limit usually recognised as safe for drinking and dietetic purposes, and judging by the results I cannot recommend its use for drinking.—Yours faithfully,

W. MORGAN.

The sample of water to which this report applies was taken from the Bompren Spring, Llanhilfeth.

Reference No. 34,401.

August 30th, 1894.

Gentlemen,—Herewith I beg to hand you the results of my analysis of a sample of water marked "A.L.B., No. 3," received from you on the 18th inst.

Total solid residue on evaporating to dryness	3.50	grains per gallon.
Chlorine as Chlorides.....	0.70	"
Equivalent to Sodium Chloride	1.15	"
Nitrogen as Nitrates.....	0.023	"
Nitrogen as Nitrites.....	None.	
No Lead, Copper, or any other poisonous metal present.		
Free Ammonia.....	0.03	parts per million.
Albumenoid Ammonia.....	0.08	"
Total or initial hardness.....	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	degrees.
Permanent hardness after boiling.....	2	"

The sample was clear and free from any unpleasant taste or smell. This water has no action on Lead therefore it may be conducted through lead pipes. The foregoing results show that the quality of this water is fair and that it is suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.—Yours faithfully,

W. MORGAN.

The sample of water to which this Analysis refers was taken from a runner emptying itself into the roadway leading from Maescynew Farm to Blaencynew Farm.

Reference No. 34,402.

August 30th, 1894.

Gentlemen,—Herewith I beg to hand you the results of my analysis of a sample of water, marked "A.L.B., No. 4," received from you on the 18th inst.

Total solid residue on evaporating to dryness	9.31	grains per gallon.
Chlorine as Chlorides.....	0.80	"
Equivalent to Sodium Chloride.....	1.32	"
Nitrogen as Nitrates	0.057	"
Nitrogen as Nitrites.....	None.	
No Lead, Copper, or any other metal present.		
Free Ammonia	0.10	parts per Million.
Albumenoid Ammonia.....	0.05	"
Total or initial hardness—(Clarke's Scale).....	4 $\frac{3}{4}$	degrees.
Permanent hardness after boiling	2 $\frac{3}{4}$	degrees.

The sample was clear and free from any unpleasant taste or smell. This water has no action on Lead therefore it may be conducted through lead pipes. The Free Ammonia in the above is in excess and indicates the presence of surface sewage contamination or vegetable matter and in its present condition I cannot recommend its use for drinking or dietetic purposes.—Yours faithfully,

W. MORGAN.

The sample of water to which this analysis refers was taken from a spring situated near to Blaencynew Farm.

Reference No. 34417.

August 30th, 1894.

Gentlemen,—Herewith I beg to hand you the results of my analysis of a sample of water, marked "A.L.B., No. 5," received from you on the 22nd inst.

Total solid residue on evaporating to dryness	27.30	grains per gallon.
Chlorine as Chlorides	0.70	"
Equivalent to Sodium Chloride.....	1.15	"
Nitrogen as Nitrates.....	0.046	"
Nitrogen as Nitrites.....	None.	
No Lead, Copper, or any other poisonous metal present.		
Free Ammonia.....	0.04	parts per million.
Albumenoid Ammonia	0.02	"
Total or initial hardness—(Clarke's Scale)...	18½	degees.
Hardness after boiling.....	18¼	"

The sample was clear and free from smell but it had a slight acid taste owing to the presence of free Sulphuric acid amounting to about 2·4 grains per gallon, and if this free Sulphuric acid was in the water when the sample was taken it goes without saying that it is totally unfit for drinking or domestic purposes, but I have a strong suspicion that the bottle had previously contained Sulphuric acid and was not thoroughly rinsed out before taking the sample, and I shall be glad to have some information respecting this water.—Yours faithfully,

W. MORGAN.

The sample of water to which this analysis and report apply was taken from an old level above Blaencynew Farm.

Reference No. 34474.

September 8th, 1894.

Gentlemen,—Herewith I beg to hand you the results of my analysis of a sample of water, marked "A.L.B., No. 6," received from you per rail on the 1st inst.

Total solid residue on evaporation to dryness	2.50	grains per gallon.
Chlorine as Chlorides.....	0.60	"
Equivalent to Sodium Chloride.....	0.99	"
Nitrogen as Nitrates.....	0.035	"
Nitrogen as Nitrites.....	None.	
No Lead, Copper, or any other poisonous metal present.		

Free Ammonia.....	0.02 parts per Million.
Albumenoid Ammonia.....	0.05 "
Total hardness—(Clarke's Scale).....	1 degree.

The sample was clear and free from any unpleasant taste or smell. This water does not attack lead, therefore it may be safely conducted through lead pipes. The foregoing results show that the quality of this water is good and that it may be safely used for drinking and domestic purposes.—Yours faithfully,

W. MORGAN.

The sample of water to which this report alludes was derived from the pond above Blaencuffin Farm House.

6.—PAVING OF STREETS.

Eighty yards of paving have been laid down during the year in the following streets:—James-street, Chapel-street, and Bush Hill.

7.—HOUSE ACCOMMODATION.

Although some 154 new houses are reported to have been constructed during the year, the accommodation is lamentably deficient everywhere. The facts mentioned in last year's report exist to-day—to the same extent—and demands your serious consideration with the view of checking the overcrowding so general through your District. I am well aware of the difficulty you will have in dealing with this matter when you take it in hand. Hitherto whenever your officers have received notice of any flagrant disregard of the Laws of Health, the usual notice has been served upon the offenders and the nuisance has been removed without appealing to the law.

The term “overcrowding” is not limited to mere convenience or social propriety, but has special reference to health, and is understood to be such overcrowding as is injurious to health. The meaning of the word has not been determined by the Legislature, but so far as it relates to Metropolitan lodging houses, there must be 30 feet of floor space and 240 cubical feet of air space for each inmate, and any quantity less than that would indicate overcrowding.

III.—ADMINISTRATION OF THE AUTHORITY.

1.—ABATEMENT OF NUISANCES.

Orders issued for improvements to Houses and other Buildings ....	....	....	....	....	80
Houses, etc., cleansed and repaired	....	....	....	....	18
Drains trapped	....	....	....	....	3
New Privies and Closets provided	....	....	....	....	12
New Dustbins provided	....	....	....	....	9
No Lodging Houses registered as such in the District.					

No complaints have arisen respecting the Dustbins or other accumulations of rubbish.

Animals removed, being improperly kept	....	....	....	....	3
Legal proceedings taken during 1894	....	....	....	None.	

The following places are regularly inspected :—

Bakehouses	....	....	....	....	....	9
Licensed Cowsheds	....	....	....	....	....	31
Licensed Slaughter-houses	....	....	....	....	....	10

2.—BYE-LAWS.

The proper and due application of the Bye-laws relating to building and other matters receives at the hands of your Officers that share of attention which its importance demands.

3.—COMMON LODGING-HOUSES.

It would be of great advantage if you would compel persons keeping a lodging-house to register the same in your office, so that these premises may be inspected from time to time with a view to seeing whether the premises are kept properly clean in accordance with the regulations.

4.—VACCINATION.

I regret to inform you that this trifling operation, against which there exists so much prejudice on the part of parents, is so imperfectly performed in your District as to be of but little practical use.

The majority of children born during the past four years have merely been vaccinated in **one** place, which is quite contrary to the requirements of the Local Government Board, who insist upon all Public Vaccinators producing upon the child's arm **four good scars**. This evasion of the Act of Parliament will, I feel sure, be disastrous in its results should a severe epidemic of Small Pox break out in the District.

To enable you to be fully equipped for dealing with Epidemics of Infectious Disease it is absolutely essential you should be provided with proper machinery. I have repeatedly reminded former Boards of the necessity that exists for the adoption of the **Infectious Diseases Notification Act, 1889**. At the present time, after nearly eighteen years of work, no organised method exists for checking the spread of catching diseases. **You have no Disinfecting Apparatus, no Isolation Hospital, no Public Mortuary.** Without these, the difficulty of stopping the spread of this class of disease is insurmountable. Hitherto my appeals have been in vain. Let me hope you will realise the old adage, "Prevention is better than cure." It is my duty to point out these matters, for I consider the prevention of sickness and the saving of human life is too precious to be regarded entirely from a Ratepayer's point of view.

I am, yours &c.,

WM. EDWIN WILLIAMS,

January 27th, 1895

F.R.C.S., M.O.H.

Read to the Sanitary Committee, January 30th, 1895.

